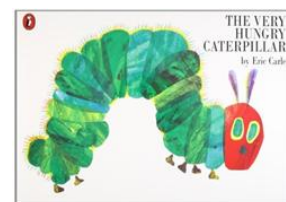


Wow! We are now in the final term of the year. This is a particularly busy time for the nursery, with older children visiting their new primary schools and their new teachers coming to visit us. After some well needed rain, our lovely garden is in full bloom, and the children are particularly enjoying this recent spell of the warm weather (with lots of water play to cool off!). Here is a brief round-up of news from our rooms:



Elm Class

We are looking after caterpillars in Elm Class (we have even given them names!) – we check on them daily and talk about the changes we see e.g. “bigger”, “hanging upside down”, “spinning”. We are learning about their life cycle through observation, the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* ([Eric Carle reads The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#)) and singing *There's a Tiny Caterpillar on a Leaf*.



Elm Class have been enjoying the warmer weather, noticing that the seeds we planted in the garden have started to grow. We are learning what they need to grow and carefully giving them water from our watering cans. We are excited that we will be able to taste the strawberries and raspberries soon when they are ready.

The recent rain has given us opportunities for building ramps for the falling rain, catching and scooping rain in buckets, splashing in puddles and making ‘mud castles’ in the mud kitchen.

The children still have a keen interest in mark making using paint, pens, chalk, white boards, and iPad style devices.

Beech Class

The children in Beech Class have been particularly interested in building towers and structures out of Duplo and bricks, seeing how tall we can build them before they come crashing down (*‘crash!’*). They have also taken this outside by building larger structures in the garden, all whilst dressed up in builders’ hard hats and hi viz jackets. There has been lots of messy play to explore, including green gloop (a mixture of cornflour and water). They have been able to see the change in texture - squeeze, pinch, scoop and manipulate it when it is a liquid and scrape and scratch it when it becomes a solid.

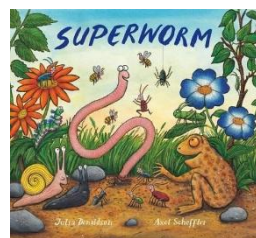
We have been singing one of our favourite rhyming songs ‘5 little ducks’ ([Five Little Ducks - CBeebies](#)). It supports early learning through counting, repetition and rhythm, and helps develop language skills, motor skills and emotional awareness. We have also been learning about the mathematical concept of subtracting, by taking one away each time with the song singing [5 little men in a flying saucer](#).

We have recently welcomed new children into Beech Class and we are learning each other’s names. The children love to sing our favourite name sharing song ‘*Hickety pickety bumble bee, won’t you say your name for me ...*’.

Oak Class

The children in Oak Class have a keen interest in mini beasts and they often find them in the garden. They have been learning how to carefully hold them whilst showing what they have found to their peers and adults. Some children

have been using magnifying glasses to look at them in more detail. They found lots of worms and so we have read *Superworm* by Julia Donaldson.



We have caterpillars in our classroom. The children have named them and are observing how they are changing. We have been talking about the life cycle of butterflies to coincide with this. We have also been reading *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* ([Eric Carle reads The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#)) and singing *There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf*.

Children have been developing their fine motor skills. They have been matching coloured pegs onto their board, pegging washing onto a line, using scissors to cut around a snail pattern (creating spirals) and also rescuing dinosaurs stuck in tape.

We have been discussing that stories have a start, middle and ending. We have been collaborating in our key groups to make up our own story together.

Children have been practicing their listening skills through playing games. These include:

- Sound lotto - listening for animal noises.
- *Isn't it funny how a bear likes honey* - listening to where the bell goes when a peer takes it from them when they are sleeping like a bear.
- Listening to the sound an instrument makes from a selection of instruments and checking by playing that instrument.

Fir Class

In Fir Class there has been a lot of excitement about the new caterpillars in our room, and the children have wanted to check on them daily, they are growing so fast! We have been talking about how they will turn into butterflies and reading the book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* ([Eric Carle reads The Very Hungry Caterpillar](#))

We have also been learning about pattern. We have made repeated patterns with different colour blocks or peg boards. We've looked at making patterns with natural resources such as shells and pinecones or patterns that we might find in nature such as stripes or a snail's spiral.

The children have also enjoyed exploring different instruments such as wooden tapping sticks and drums, playing them loud/quiet and tapping out the syllables of our names.

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Did you know? Language and communication skills are the key to future success for children. Children learn the structures and patterns of their home language first - and key useful words. This process begins at home and continues at the nursery school. We support this learning by using language that is simple, clear, relevant and easy to understand and building on this with small steps. At times when it is important for children to understand and respond safely or appropriately, we must make sure we gain their attention fully and use only key pieces of information. At other more playful times we can use language more creatively, still one step at a time, but introducing new ideas or words and playing with the way language can be built or used.

Donations

The school provides free milk for all children. We do, however, rely on **donations of fruit, vegetables (e.g. carrot sticks, cucumber, peppers) and other healthy snacks (e.g. cheese, rice cakes, breadsticks, low salt crackers)** for your child to share at snack time in the morning and afternoon. If you could **bring in a small amount each week** it would be greatly appreciated. Alternatively, you can donate cash or by card using the card reader in the School Office.



It is the time of year for cold viruses, and we would also appreciate donations of **boxes of tissues** for the children's use.

Drinks

The school provides cow's milk at snack times during the morning and afternoon session, and fresh water is freely available throughout the day. If you do bring in a water bottle for your child, please ensure it only contains water.

INSET Days

The school will be closed on the following days for staff training: **3 and 4 September 2026, 4 January, 25 March, 7 June 2027**

End of year celebration

We are planning an end of year celebration on **Wednesday 15 July** when parents will be invited in during the afternoon to celebrate with us. Any children who do not attend on a Wednesday will be invited in for the afternoon with their parents – more details to follow!

Summer raffle

Thank you so much for your support in buying raffle tickets. **Tickets cost £1 each** and are available at Reception. You can pay cash or by card. Prizes include children's helmets, backpacks and gift sets. Come and get your tickets! **All money raised goes towards school funds** (which is spent on children's activities). A big thank you to Heidi Taylor (our school governor) for donating/sourcing the prizes.

We will be drawing the raffle during week commencing 13 July. Good luck!

Allergy awareness

We have children/staff with severe allergies in school. Please **do not bring balloons** into the nursery due to a latex allergy. We also have egg and nut allergies in the nursery, therefore please **do not put egg** (e.g. egg sandwiches, omelette, boiled eggs, quiche (egg in cake is allowed!)) or **nuts or nut products** (such as Nutella or shop's own brand chocolate hazelnut spread) in your child's lunch box.

Concept Photography

You are reminded that if you would like to place an order for photographs, the deadline to order online for free delivery to nursery was 19 June. Orders can still be placed after 19 June, however you will have to pay for postage.

Toileting

If your child is in nappies, please ensure there are enough **nappies** and **wet wipes** for the session and if your child is toilet training, please put **wet wipes in their bag** and lots of **spare clothes** (including **socks**) as children may need changing more than once.

If your child is not actively potty training (i.e. attempting to use the toilet regularly), please could you provide **nappies (with tabs)** instead of pull-ups to help key people with the changing process.

Spare clothes in a bag on your child's peg

Please keep plenty of spare clothes in children's bags. Not only do children have toileting accidents but they also like to explore water play. Please also provide plastic bags/nappy sacks for wet clothing to home in.

Best Start in Life

[Best Start in Life](#) is a UK Government website with advice and support for your child's development - from pregnancy to childcare, right through to starting school.



Supporting children as they get ready for Reception

Starting school is an exciting milestone for children and their families. To help make the transition into Reception as smooth and positive as possible, we would like to share a set of free, practical resources for parents and carers from the Starting Reception website.

Starting Reception is designed to support families in preparing children for school through simple activities, helpful advice and clear guidance on the key skills and routines that help children feel confident and ready for their first day. The website covers everyday aspects of school readiness, from independence and communication to managing routines at home.

In addition to the main Starting Reception guide, there are also dedicated resources to support potty training and children's toothbrushing. Being able to use the toilet independently and developing healthy daily routines, such as brushing teeth, are important parts of getting ready for school and can help children feel more comfortable and confident when they start Reception.

Parents and carers can explore the resources online or download the guides using the links below:

Starting Reception website: <https://www.startingreception.co.uk/>

Potty Training Guide website: <https://startingreception.co.uk/potty-training/>

Children's Toothbrushing Guide website: <https://startingreception.co.uk/toothbrushing/>

Summer safety

When the sun shines it is important to take some precautions to keep your child healthy and safe. Please make sure your child's **shoulders are covered** (e.g. by wearing a T shirt instead of a strappy top or vest), provide a **sun hat (labelled with your child's name)** and apply **sun cream before your child comes to school**. There are sun creams available that give protection all day and this would be preferable. It is very challenging for staff to safely apply sun cream to every child due to the number of children attending the setting and due to the allergy needs of the children. Applying long-lasting sun cream at home ensures your child is safely protected and allows staff to focus on your child's learning and wellbeing. Staff will of course support children to wear sun hats, wear long-sleeved clothing when needed, drink water and provide shady areas to play etc.

The children spend a lot of time outside: climbing, riding bikes and scooters, playing ball games, gardening and running around. **Open-toed sandals and flip flops are not suitable footwear for nursery and can be dangerous.** Please be mindful of this when choosing your child's summer shoes.



School meals

School meals must be paid for IN ADVANCE via Arbor. The school cannot keep arrears, and it may lead to meals being stopped.

If your child is 3 and you are in receipt of certain benefits, you may well be entitled to free school meals. If you think you may be entitled, please ask at Reception.

We have also been informed by our catering supplier (<https://www.aspens-services.co.uk/>) that from 1 September 2026, **the price of a meal will increase to £2.70.**

Price increase

From September 2026, the price of a half-day session will increase to **£27.00**.



Surplus food from Marks & Spencer

On Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, staff from St Philip's pick up surplus food from M&S which would otherwise go to waste. Any food we can't use for snack, we put in Reception for parents to take. Please help yourself to save food waste.

Car seat safety

Please remember, **using a car seat can save your child's life in an accident**. The law says you must make sure that any children in the vehicle you're driving is in the [correct car seat](#) for their height or weight until they reach 135 centimetres tall or their 12th birthday, whichever is first.

Two things are true for every family:

- Using a car seat is always safer than not using one, even on the shortest journey.
- A car seat that fits your car offers better protection than one that doesn't.

For further information [Car seat safety: How to keep your child safe in the car](#)



Big Brush Club - FREE Parent and Carer Oral Health Webinar

Big Brush Club is hosting a free online oral health webinar for parents and carers of children aged 0–11 years.

The session will cover:

- The causes of tooth decay
- Diet choices for good oral health
- Effective toothbrushing techniques
- The importance of fluoride toothpaste
- Practical strategies for supporting toothbrushing, including for children with additional needs (SEN)

Date: Saturday 4th July 2026

Time: 10.00am

This is a fantastic opportunity for families to receive evidence based oral health advice from qualified dental professionals.

Please use the link below to register for the webinar:

[Big Brush Club Free Oral Health Improvement Webinar for Parents and Carers of Children aged 0-11 – Saturday 4th July 2026 at 10am](#)



Staff and Governor changes

Sadly, we say goodbye to Naznin Serali who has been with us for 7 years. We send her our thanks and very best wishes for the future.

New parent governor needed

Our Governing Body is made up of community, parent, staff and Local Authority Governors. Our Governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experiences, but they are all volunteers who work together for the benefit of the school and are the link between the school and the community it serves. **We are currently looking for a new parent governor.** Being a Governor can be enjoyable, stimulating and rewarding. Please don't be put off by thinking that you have to have specialist expertise or knowledge. Enthusiasm and interest are much more important to start with and there is training and support available to help you. Please remember you will be joining a long-established Governing Body and will be supported by fellow Governors with many years of experience. If you would like more information, please contact Maggie on Reception.

Important Dates

Full details of all Bristol City Council term dates can be accessed [HERE](#)

Summer holiday (School CLOSED) – **23 July - 31 August (inclusive)**

INSET day (School CLOSED) – **3 and 4 September**

Return to school – **Monday 7 September**

How to apply for help with childcare for working parents

- 2 years old, you can get 30 hours per week of free childcare
- 3 to 4 years old, you can get 30 hours per week of free childcare

(You will not be eligible if your child does not usually live with you).

30-hours free childcare using eligibility code

If your child is 3 between 1st April 2026-31st August 2026, you may be eligible for 30-hours free childcare (this can be used from September 2026). For this you will need an eligibility code. You can use this for the following nursery sessions:

- 5 days Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:30pm; or
- 3 days 7:45am-5:45pm.

If your child is 2 and you are currently paying, you may be eligible for 30-hours free childcare (this can be used from September 2026). For this you will need an eligibility code. You can use this for the following nursery sessions:

- 5 Days Monday-Friday 9:00am-3:30pm.

(due to higher staff:child ratio requirements, we are unable to use your code for breakfast or afterschool club)

To check if you are eligible, please visit [Best Start in Life - Best Start in Life](#)

If you are eligible, you will be provided with an eligibility code. Please give the code and the National Insurance number it is registered with to office staff as soon as possible. Due to school holidays, please give this information to us by **Monday 13 July** to ensure the nursery can submit the code to Bristol City Council for the start of the new term.

To continue receiving the government support, you will need to reconfirm your details every three months on your gov.uk account.

Tax-free childcare

You may also be entitled to tax-free childcare which will help towards paying for nursery fees. For more information and to check eligibility, please visit [Best Start in Life - Best Start in Life](#)

Paying for nursery sessions

If you receive an invoice for nursery sessions, you can pay by:

- Tax-free childcare (please give your code to office staff by email)
- BACS payment (the bank details are at the bottom of the invoice and your reference number will be the school's unique number (1002) and the six numbers starting with 2 on the top of your invoice)
- Cheque made payable to Bristol City Council Schools General
- Cash

Please do not use Arbor for nursery sessions. Arbor is used for paying for meals and communication from the school to parents.



15th June 2026

Dear Parent or Carer,

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) today issued a press release tragically confirming the death of two children from complications of measles in England (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/latest-measles-figures-published-as-two-deaths-confirmed-in-2026>). This is a stark reminder of the importance of vaccination to prevent children getting measles.

Around 15% of children in Bristol are currently unvaccinated. We have only seen a very small number of cases so far this year in the city and thankfully no deaths. We are however encouraging all families to check that children have received two doses of the MMR (or MMRV) vaccine, appropriate for their age. Taking action now will help protect our children and communities and prevent the risk of any spread over the summer months.

Measles is a virus that spreads very easily. Babies, young children, and those with weakened immune systems are at higher risk of complications.

The MMR/MMRV vaccine is safe, effective, and free on the NHS. It protects against measles, mumps, and rubella. MMRV also protects against chickenpox. Vaccination remains the best protection.

It's important for parents to take up the offer of vaccination for their children when offered at 1 year of age with the second dose at 18 months. If children or young adults have missed these vaccinations in the past, it's important to take up the vaccine now from GPs, particularly in light of the recent cases.

Check your child's Red Book to see if they've received MMR vaccinations as scheduled or check with your GP surgery if you're unsure. Most healthy adults will have developed some immunity to measles but can still receive two doses of the vaccine from their GP too.

If a child develops symptoms, they should stay at home and contact their GP or NHS 111 before attending any setting.

Symptoms of measles include:

- High fever
- Sore, red, watery eyes

- Coughing
- Aching and feeling generally unwell
- A blotchy rash, which usually appears after the initial symptoms. The rash looks brown or red on white skin. It may be harder to see on brown and black skin.

For more information about measles, please see the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

For advice on the signs and symptoms of measles and guidance on how to protect your child, please see the UKHSA blog: <https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2026/03/05/what-are-the-symptoms-of-measles-and-how-can-i-best-protect-my-child/>

For more information about the MMR or MMRV vaccine and to check eligibility and the vaccination schedule, please see the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

Yours faithfully,



Julie Northcott
Deputy Director Public Health



Vik Verma
Director Education and Schools

Your Holiday HUB Bristol

Hundreds of
holiday activities
are available
in Bristol

*Eligibility criteria apply



Sports



Day trips

Cookery



Performing arts

Crafts

yourholidayhubbristol.co.uk



Funded by
UK Government



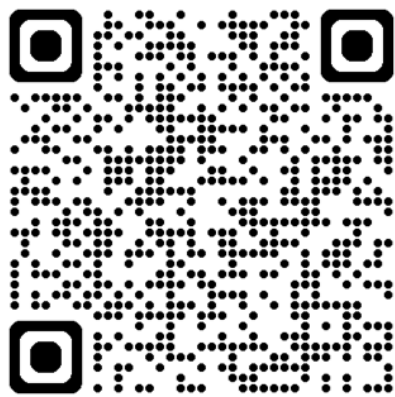
Department
for Education



HAF funded by DfE – supported by Bristol City Council, BAND, Feeding Bristol, Bristol Play and Youth Alliance



FAMILY HUB
REGISTRATION
PLEASE SIGN UP
HERE





Bristol Parent
Carer Forum
Shaping the Future *Together*

STARTING RECEPTION WITH SEND: WHAT TO EXPECT AND HOW TO PREPARE



WITH BRISTOL PARENT CARERS
AND BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
PORTAGE AND INCLUSION TEAM



Tuesday 7th July

7pm-8pm

Online



Book here! or
www.linkbristolparentcarers.org.uk/gethelp

Starting Reception

Your child's journey to school starts at home

We understand that all children develop at their own pace, and that we're all learning from birth. When it's time to start school, some children will need more help than others.

There's lots you can do at home to build your child's confidence and independence, helping them feel emotionally and practically prepared to start school.



For more information on how to help your child get ready for reception, and for information on supporting children with additional needs, scan the QR code or visit <https://startingreception.co.uk>.



ERIC, The Children's Bowel and Bladder Charity



Wee and poo is
what we do!

Is your child struggling with **toilet training**,
withholding, **constipation** and **soiling**,
daytime bladder problems or **bedwetting**?

We have over 30 years' experience of
providing information and support for families
dealing with wee and poo problems.

Visit our website:

www.eric.org.uk



Book Share Tips



Reading develops your brain and provides a window into the world around you. There are so many ways that we can help our children learn to read and enjoy books.

Home language - the brilliance of bilingualism! Reading and talking about books in your home language helps your child's language development.

“Words are all around us – pointing out road signs, bus numbers and places, food labels.”

Words are all around us - pointing out road signs, bus numbers and places, food labels. Talk about what the words say.

Making time to read - maybe share a story or book at bedtime.

Turn off the TV - Put the phones away and look at books - it's much easier to concentrate with fewer distractions.

Looking at the pictures together and talking about what you notice helps a child to make sense of the story.

Show your child how to **look after books**: which way up, turning the pages, looking at the pictures, pointing to the words as you read them.

Favourite books - children often have a favourite book or story and will often want to read it over and over again. Children love repetition and this helps them to understand and remember the language they hear.

Children love to 'pretend' to read. Encourage them to read you stories and give them attention.

Talk about the places, characters in stories as this will help to increase your child's understanding.

Most of all... relax and enjoy finding out about new things or going to another world with your child through stories.

Further information and ideas for exploring books with your child, book-based games and book recommendations please see website links below.

Booktrust

[Supporting Parents, Carers and Families | BookTrust](#)

National Literacy Trust

[Parents and families | National Literacy Trust](#)

When the sun shines,

bring a **sunhat** (labelled with child's name)



ensure **shoulders are covered** (no strappy tops or vests)



wear **appropriate footwear** (no open-toed sandals or flip flops)



and **apply sunscreen**

